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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Wednesday - 18 August 1954

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1. Cong. Hillings has asked me to meet with him tomorrow morning to discuss several matters. It is believed that they will turn largely upon the question of CIA assistance to him as Chairman of a subcommittee of the Kersten Committee on Communist Aggression which will investigate communism in Latin America, with particular emphasis on Guatemala. In the meantime, Mr. Wisner has been discussing this problem directly with Cong. Kersten and has turned over further discussions on that matter to [redacted] Acting Chief/WH. After several conversations, Kersten has now asked [redacted] to deal with Cong. Hillings. In order to keep all lines straight, [redacted] will accompany me to the meeting tomorrow with Hillings so that we may see the scope of what will be involved.

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2. In connection with our request to the House Immigration Subcommittee, the Committee determined only to take those remaining private bills which involved separation of families. Committee Counsel Besterman informs me that he made a considerable plea for our bills as both necessary from the intelligence standpoint and helpful in the psychological warfare program. In connection with the latter point, a member of the Committee indicated that the Committee "was not the Voice of America." On the other bills at least one member queried whether CIA was as sure about the subjects of those bills as they were about [redacted] It is my understanding that Cong. Walter did not throw the blocks, but the Committee decided against taking the bills. I have urged on Mr. Besterman, however, that if Subcommittee Chairman Graham (who was absent, but had left word that he wanted the bills taken) could take it on himself to pull through our one operational bill, it would be most helpful. One of the points of opposition to taking our bills, which Mr. Besterman feels should be thrashed out, was the feeling among Committee members that the Congress had given us the special authority of Section 8 of the CIA Act of 1949, and that we ought to utilize this mechanism a good deal more than relying on private bills. This latter subject should receive further consideration during the recess, particularly in connection with those aliens who have been brought in "black".

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3. The Congress has completed action on the so-called "Fringe Benefits" Act and it now goes to the White House for signature. The Act as passed includes an exemption for CIA from the provisions of the Performance Rating Act of 1949, eliminating the three special slots for Scientific Intelligence, now no longer necessary because of increases in Federal wage scales, and a Government-wide Incentive Awards Program. The House conferees have adopted the Senate version of the Incentive Awards Program, which did not include inspection authority by the Civil Service Commission, and therefore it was unnecessary to secure any exemption from its provisions.

4. Mr. William Foley, of the Department of Justice, called regarding the Espionage and Sabotage Act of 1954 (H.R. 9580). This bill, as it passed the House, included provisions requiring registration of persons trained in espionage and sabotage, one section of which is already on the statute books. In addition, it included an exemption from registration for those whose knowledge of and receipt of instruction in this field is a matter of record in the files of a Government agency having responsibility in the field of intelligence, and concerning whom a written determination is made by the Attorney General or the DCI that registration would not be in the interest of national security. This section was drafted, in collaboration with the Department of Justice, at the pressing request of Staff C/DDP, to cover those cases where such persons were in the country and we were aware of their presence, but where such persons did not know that the Government knew that they were intelligence trained and where, in the interest of protecting intelligence sources and methods, it would be preferable that the individuals were not aware of the Government's knowledge. This latter section, along with several others, was stricken from the bill by the Senate Judiciary Committee, whose action was upheld by the Senate. The bill is now going to conference, and Mr. Rogers, the Deputy Attorney General, instructed Mr. Foley to ascertain how strongly we felt about this provision. I have told Mr. Foley that we need the provision and that we want it very badly, as it would be helpful both to us and to the Bureau. Mr. Foley assured me that the Department of Justice would fight very hard for the provision, and asked if we felt so strongly about it that if it were a question of not getting the provision, would we want them to insist on it at the cost of losing the bill. He pointed out that the bill was an important part of the Attorney General's program. I repeated to Mr. Foley that the section was extremely important to us, but that if it came to a final question of either eliminating that provision or losing the bill, the Department of Justice should salvage the bill. Mr. Houston concurs in this position.

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5. Mr. Cotter, of the staff of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, informed me that the briefing given to the Committee's Advisory Group on Continental Defense from Atomic Attack by Chief, NED/SI, was the best briefing which the group has received, and had been most enthusiastically commented upon.

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